

The City of Lowell:

Open Space Initiative Survey

November 2002

Prepared for:

The City of Lowell
Division of Planning and Development

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The purpose of this research is to uncover public sentiment regarding the issue of protecting open space and maintaining recreational services and areas in Lowell. The results from this survey will be used in the City's open space plan that is currently under development.

The following results are based upon the responses of a sampling of 261 Lowell residents participating in a telephone survey. Interviews were conducted between November 1, 2002 and November 10, 2002. Interviews were conducted in three languages: English, Spanish, and Khmer.

Sample Breakdown

A total of 224 of the respondents in this survey were recruited at random. In addition, a listed sample of Cambodians was used to augment and assure a robust sample of this ethnic group. A total of 37 Cambodian respondents were recruited through the purchase of a telephone list.

When we compare the ethnic and neighborhood mix of this sample to that of the Census and Census figures adjusted by the Lowell Division of Planning and Development (adjusting the Cambodian population by school enrollment), we see that our data, excluding the Cambodian augment, closely matches the Census on Hispanic, Black and Other representation. Including our Cambodian augment, our sample closely matches the DPD's adjusted census figures. Given that the augmented data more closely matches the adjusted US Census data, we will use data that includes the Cambodian augment for the remainder of this report.

	Population %			
	Census	Resident Survey (ex. Augment)	Adjusted Census	Resident Survey (Incl. Augment)
	%	%	%	%
Caucasian	55	73	57	63
Hispanic	14	12	14	10
Asian	16	8	22	20
Black	4	4	4	3
Other	11	3	3	2

Note: Unlike the survey of the U.S. Census, this survey utilized a combined race/ethnicity question for ease of analysis. Respondents were asked to choose the *one* race/ethnicity that best describes them. Therefore, for example, residents chose Hispanic *or* Caucasian – versus in the Census possibly claiming both Hispanic *and* Caucasian.

To prevent the double counting of Hispanics in the Census data, we assumed that Hispanics also claimed Caucasian race. We then reduced the Census Caucasian population by this amount.

By neighborhood, the respondents in this survey also closely match that of the U.S. Census. Please note that while this survey reports lower inner-city neighborhood percents, it's “don't know/other” is quite high. Reviewing the demographics of this group reveals that they are more likely to be Hispanic or Asian.

Estimated Population Percentages

Neighborhood	% Per Census	% Per Survey
The Acre	11	5
Back Central	5	1
Belvidere	8	8
Centraville	9	10
Christian Hill	6	2
Downtown	4	7
The Highlands & Middlesex Village	17	23
Lower Belvidere	2	1
Lower Highlands	11	3
Pawtucketville	14	15
South Lowell, Sacred Heart, Riverside, Swede Village	12	10
Don't Know	0	3
Other	0	11

Survey Highlights

The findings from this survey of Lowell residents may be summarized as follows:

- The majority of Lowell residents participate in some kind of recreational activity in the City. The activities mentioned most frequently are walking or jogging and attending special events in the park. Caucasian residents are more likely to report participating in multiple activities as compared to Asian or Hispanic residents.
- Most Lowell residents use the public resources offered by the City. Although Caucasian residents are more likely to participate in multiple activities as compared to Asian or Hispanic residents, they are less likely to use Lowell's public resources.
- The public park is the recreational facility used most frequently by Lowell residents. Caucasian residents are more likely to use a private yard or a health or fitness center than Asian or Hispanic residents.
- Although many residents feel protecting open space is important to the quality of life in the City, this received less support than: cleaning up the neighborhoods by keeping streets and sidewalks clean; encouraging building maintenance and upkeep of private property; and providing recreational areas for children.
- The Parks Department often faces difficult trade-offs in managing recreation services for the residents of Lowell. Several of these trade-offs were presented to Lowell residents who were asked to choose which management scenario they would support.
 - Residents' support for developing smaller parks in neighborhoods versus developing large city-wide parks is divided. Caucasian residents are more likely to support the development of smaller, neighborhood parks while Asian residents are more likely to support the development of larger, city-wide parks.
 - Lowell residents are more supportive of developing existing park areas and spending more money on supervised recreation activities within existing parks than purchasing new land or spending money on developing new park and recreation areas. However, a sizable minority are in favor of developing vacant, undeveloped, city-owned land into new parks and recreational areas.
 - Residents are interested in the City maintaining control over all parks and recreational areas, as opposed to allowing citizen groups to take over this function.

- In this survey, interviewers explained how the Parks Department must spend “*limited city funds generated from tax collection*” to maintain recreational areas. They were then asked if the Department should *spend more of its budget, less of its budget or about the same* to maintain certain recreational areas.
 - Lowell residents would support more spending for recreational facilities, particularly for children. More than half say the City should spend more of the City’s budget on children’s playgrounds and on recreation centers.
 - More residents would support more spending on general open areas for recreation than spending on facilities for specific recreational activities.
 - Compared to Caucasian residents, Asians and Hispanics are generally more positive on allocating more of the City’s budget to recreational resources.
 - Likewise, residents with children in the household are more likely to support spending on recreational areas since they are more likely to use Lowell’s public resources versus households with no children.
- Residents are divided on their support for an increase of 1-3% in their property tax to support parks and open space in Lowell. This is consistent among all groups, including those who say they would support spending more of the City’s budget on recreational activities in the City.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- In improving the quality of life for Lowell residents, the City should focus on:
 - Keeping the City clean by keeping streets and sidewalks clean, as well as encouraging building maintenance and upkeep of private property; and
 - Providing more recreational areas, particularly for children.

- In managing the parks and recreational services in Lowell, the Parks Department should focus on current park resources by:
 - Developing existing park areas;
 - Spending more money on supervised recreation activities within existing parks; and
 - Maintaining control over the parks and recreational areas.

- There are differences in the use of recreational activities and services among different ethnic populations in the City. The Parks Department should be aware of these differences to ensure the needs of all groups are considered in developing strategies to maintain and develop park resources.

- Although there is some support for spending more money on recreational activities, the City needs to explore ways to increase resident support for a property tax increase or, alternatively, explore ways to redistribute City funds to pay for these activities.

Detailed Findings

I. Recreation Resources in Lowell

Activities

The majority of Lowell residents participate in some recreational activities in Lowell. Most say they walk or jog in the Lowell at least once a year (84%). Those who participate in this activity do so frequently. Half say they walk or jog many times a year (49%).

The majority also attend special events in Lowell Parks at least once year (79%). Those who attend special events are likely to do so more than once a year (49% say they attend an event a few times a year or more).

There are some differences in the likelihood of participating in certain activities by ethnic background.

- Caucasian residents are more likely to participate in several different activities as compared to Asian or Hispanic residents.
- Asian residents are more likely than Caucasian residents to play volleyball.
- Hispanic residents are more likely than Caucasian residents to picnic.

Activities Participated In By Ethnic Background

Base:	Total (261) %	Caucasian (164) % a		Asian (52) % b		Hispanic (26) % c	
Walking or jogging	84	88	C	73		65	
Attending special events in Lowell Parks	79	82	B	67		81	
Picnicking	58	53	B	62		69	a
Bicycling	47	48		42		58	
Football or Soccer	41	43	B	29		35	
Basketball	41	38		46		35	
Baseball or softball	38	45	B	21		31	
Fishing	34	40	C	35		19	
Volleyball	25	20		44	A	27	
Golf	19	25	B,c	12		12	
Tennis	17	15		25		12	
Skateboarding	16	16		15		15	
<div></div> Significant difference from a, b, or c. Lower case is significant at the 90% confidence level. Upper case is significant at the 95% confidence level.							

Residents with children 18 and under living in the household are more likely to say that someone in the household plays basketball, goes fishing, or skateboards than those without children in the household. Those without children are more likely to play tennis.

Activities Participated In By Children in Household

Base:	Total (261) %	Children in Household (127) %	No Children in Household (106) %
Basketball	41	51	28
Fishing	34	42	30
Tennis	17	13	22*
Skateboarding	16	29*	4
<div></div> Significant at the 95% confidence level * Significant at the 90% confidence level			

Those with a higher annual household income are more likely to participate in several activities as compared with those who have a lower annual household income. Those with a higher income are more likely to say someone in their household walks or jogs, attends special events, fishes, golfs and plays tennis than those who have a lower annual household income. However, those with a lower income are more likely to go picnicking or to play volleyball.

Activities Participated In By Income

Base:	Total (261) %	Less than \$50,000 (125) %	\$50,000 or more (81) %
Walking or jogging	84	78	93
Attending special events in Lowell Parks	79	76	85*
Picnicking	58	64*	51
Fishing	34	30	43*
Volleyball	25	26	15
Golf	19	11	37
Tennis	17	11	25
		Significant at the 95% confidence level	
		Significant at the 90% confidence level	

Public Resources

Most Lowell residents use the public resources offered in the City. Only one resident in ten says they do not use any of Lowell's public resources (11%). More than half say they use the open play areas (64%), the children's playgrounds (60%), or the public beach (54%).

Interestingly, although Caucasian residents are more likely to participate in several activities as compared to the Asian or Hispanic population, Asians are more likely to use all of Lowell's public resources as compared to Caucasian residents. Hispanic residents are more likely to use children's playgrounds, the beach, and swimming pools

as compared to Caucasian residents. This may suggest that Caucasian residents have other venue options for their activities such as private clubs or schools.

Use of Lowell Resources By Ethnic Background

Base:	Total (261) %	Caucasian (164) % a	Asian (52) % b	Hispanic (26) % c
Open play area	64	62	75	a 69
Children's playground	60	50	85	A 88 A
Beach	54	41	85	A 77 A
Basketball courts	41	35	52	A 50
Swimming pools	36	25	60	A 54 A
Tennis courts	21	13	44	A,C 12
Boat ramps	18	12	40	A,C 19
None	11	15 B,C	2	4

Significant difference from a, b, or c. Lower case is significant at the 90% confidence level. Upper case is significant at the 95% confidence level.

It is not surprising that residents with children in the household are more likely than those without children in the household to use most of the public resources in Lowell.

Use of Lowell Resources By Children in Household

Base:	Total (261) %	Children in Household (127) %	No Children in Household (106) %
Open play area	64	75	56
Children's playground	60	80	38
Beach	54	59	43
Basketball courts	41	56	25
Swimming pools	36	48	24
Boat ramps	18	24	8

Significant at the 95% confidence level

Those with a lower income are more likely to use the beach and the public swimming pools and less likely to use public tennis courts than those who have a higher annual income.

Use of Lowell Resources By Income

Base:	Total (261) %	Less than \$50,000 (125) %	\$50,000 or more (81) %
Beach	54	60	44
Swimming pools	36	42	26
Tennis courts	21	15	26*
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div> <p>Significant at the 95% confidence level</p> <p>* Significant at the 90% confidence level</p> </div> </div>			

Recreational Facilities

Lowell residents were asked which **one** facility they use most frequently for recreational purposes. Half of Lowell residents say they use a public park (55%). Asian residents are more likely than Caucasian residents to use the public parks while Caucasian residents are more likely to say they use a private yard than are Asian or Hispanic residents. They are also more likely to use a health or fitness center than Asian residents.

Use of Recreational Facilities Close to Home By Ethnic Background

Base:	Total (261) %	Caucasian (164) % a		Asian (52) % b	Hispanic (26) % c
Public park	55	49		71	A
Private yard	18	23	B,C	6	4
Health or fitness club	9	10	b	4	19
Public school	9	7		15	8
Country or social club	1	2		--	--
Golf course	1	1		--	4
Don't use any recreational facilities close to home	5	6		--	--
Significant difference from a, b, or c. Lower case is significant at the 90% confidence level. Upper case is significant at the 95% confidence level.					

Those with children in the household and those who have a lower annual household income are more likely to use a public park than those without children or those with a higher annual household income.

Use of Recreational Facilities Close to Home By Children in Household and Income

Base:	Total (261) %	Children in Household (127) %	No Children in Household (106) %	Less than \$50,000 (125) %	\$50,000 or more (81) %
Public park	55	64	44	63	44
Private yard	18	16	22	9	32
Significant at the 95% confidence level					

II. Quality of Life

Residents were asked to rate several factors in terms of their importance in improving the quality of life in their neighborhood. Residents feel that cleaning up at the neighborhood level is important to improving the quality of life. The majority of residents feel that *keeping streets and sidewalks clean* (81%) and *encouraging building maintenance and upkeep on private property* (75%) is important.

Residents feel that having sufficient recreational space is important, particularly for children. A majority feel *providing play areas for our youth* (76%) is important. Fewer, but still more than half, feel *offering recreational facilities for adults* (57%) is important.

A majority of Lowell residents also feel that *preserving environmentally sensitive areas* (75%) is important. Slightly fewer feel *creating more natural areas such as parks and gardens* (72%), and *planting more trees and flowers on city property* (69%) are important.

Two-thirds of residents feel that protecting open space in Lowell is important (67%). However, this is not as important to them as most other factors exposed in this research, such as clean-up and maintenance of the neighborhoods and building “natural areas.”

**Importance of Statement in Improving Quality of Life in Lowell
By Ethnic Background**

Base:	Total (261) %	Caucasian (164) % a	Asian (52) % b	Hispanic (26) % c	
Keeping streets and sidewalks clean	81	82	b 69	96	A,B
Providing play areas for our youth	76	76	65	96	A,B
Encouraging building maintenance/ upkeep on private property	75	79	B 56	96	A,B
Preserving environmentally sensitive areas	75	78	B 63	92	A,B
Creating more natural areas such as parks and gardens	72	71	67	85	a,b
Planting more trees and flowers on city property	69	70	63	88	A,B
Protecting open space in neighborhood from development	67	71	B 46	85	A,B
Offering recreational facilities for adults	57	54	54	88	A,B
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #cccccc; margin-right: 10px;"></div> Significant difference from a, b, or c. Lower case is significant at the 90% confidence level. Upper case is significant at the 95% confidence level. </div>					

Note: Table shows percent of respondents who feel the statement is important in improving the quality of life in their neighborhood and rated it a 8, 9, or 10 on a 10-point scale where 1 means *Not at all important* and 10 means *Very important*.

III. Support for Lowell Initiatives

Park Management Trade-Offs

Lowell residents were presented with several trade-offs that the Parks Department faces in managing recreation services for all residents. The residents were asked to choose from each set of trade-offs which management scenario they would support.

Residents were divided in their support for either developing smaller parks in neighborhoods (51%) or developing larger parks for all City residents (43%). This issue differs by ethnic background. Caucasian residents are much more likely to support the development of smaller parks while Asians are more likely to support the development of larger, city-wide parks.

Base:	Total (261) %	Caucasian (164) % a		Asian (52) % b		Hispanic (26) % c	
Develop smaller parks in neighborhoods that would be used primarily by residents in those neighborhoods	51	65	B,C	12		35	B
OR							
Develop a few larger parks that would be used by all City residents	43	30		85	A,C	38	
<div></div> Significant difference from a, b, or c. Lower case is significant at the 90% confidence level. Upper case is significant at the 95% confidence level.							

Residents who live in suburban neighborhoods are also more likely to support the development of smaller parks in neighborhoods (57%) than those who live in urban neighborhoods (42%).

Base:	Total (261) %	Suburban (146) % a	Urban (71) % b
Develop smaller parks in neighborhoods that would be used primarily by residents in those neighborhoods OR	51	57	42
Develop a few larger parks that would be used by all City residents	43	40	46
<div></div> Significant at the 95% confidence level			

Residents would like the city of Lowell to fix up existing parks and recreational areas (50%) or develop vacant, undeveloped, city-owned land into new parks and recreational areas (36%). Few support purchasing land in developing areas to create new parks and recreational areas (10%).

Caucasian residents are more likely to support developing vacant land than are Asian or Hispanic residents.

Base:	Total (261) %	Caucasian (164) % a	Asian (52) % b	Hispanic (26) % c
Fix up existing parks and recreational areas OR	50	48	60	42
Develop vacant, undeveloped, city-owned land into new parks and recreational areas OR	36	43	B, C	15
Purchasing land in developing areas to create new parks and recreational areas	10	7	10	27
<div></div> Significant difference from a, b, or c. Lower case is significant at the 90% confidence level. Upper case is significant at the 95% confidence level.				

Residents who live in suburban neighborhoods are more likely to support the development of vacant lands than are those who live in urban neighborhoods.

Base:	Total (261) %	Suburban (146) % a	Urban (71) % b
Fix up existing parks and recreational areas OR	50	45	55
Develop vacant, undeveloped, city-owned land into new parks and recreational areas OR	36	46	28
Purchasing land in developing areas to create new parks and recreational areas	10	6	14
<div> <div></div> Significant at the 95% confidence level </div> <div> <div>*</div> Significant at the 90% confidence level </div>			

The majority would rather *spend more money on supervised recreation activities within existing park areas* (64%) than *spend more money on developing new park and recreational areas* (33%).

Base:	Total (261) %	Caucasian (164) % a	Asian (52) % b	Hispanic (26) % c
Spending more money on supervised recreation activities within existing park areas OR	64	66	60	54
Spending more money on developing new park and recreational areas	33	32	35	31

More residents are supportive of maintaining city control of developing and maintaining all parks and recreational areas (56%) than of allowing citizen groups to develop and maintain parks and recreational areas (38%).

Base:	Total (261) %	Caucasian (164) % a	Asian (52) % b	Hispanic (26) % c
Maintaining city control of developing and maintaining all parks and recreational areas	56	59	50	46
OR				
Allowing citizen groups to develop and maintain parks and recreational areas	38	37	46	35

Allocation of Funds

In the survey, interviewers explained how the Parks Department must spend “*limited city funds generated from tax collection*” to maintain recreational areas. They were then asked if the Department should *spend more of its budget, less of its budget* or *about the same* to maintain certain recreational areas.

Overall, residents are supportive of additional focus on recreational facilities geared toward children. More than half think the City should spend more of the City’s budget on children’s playgrounds (57%) and recreation centers (57%).

Residents generally support focus on open areas rather than recreational facilities for specific sports. One half think the City should spend more on nature areas (50%) and open play areas (48%). Fewer support spending more money on activity-specific recreational areas such as trails and ball parks.


**Support for Spending More or Spending Less
On Recreational Activities in Lowell**

Base:	Spend More (261) %	Spend Less (261) %
		a
Children's playgrounds	57	4
Recreation centers	57	4
Nature areas	50	4
Open play areas	48	4
Jogging and exercise trails	42	9
Bicycle trails	41	8
Beach parks	36	10
Ball fields	34	11
Basketball courts	33	8
Swimming pools	32	9
Skateboard parks	28	24
Volleyball courts	17	19
Boat ramps	16	22
Tennis courts	14	24

Asian and Hispanic residents are more likely to support spending more money on most recreational activities than are Caucasian residents. This is not surprising since these two ethnic groups are more likely to use these resources in Lowell.

**Percent Who Feel the Parks Department Should Spend More
On Recreational Activities
By Ethnic Background**

Base:	Total (261) %	Caucasian (164) % a	Asian (52) % b		Hispanic (26) % c	
Children's playgrounds	57	49	67	A	85	A
Recreation centers	57	48	62	a	88	A
Nature areas	50	46	58		65	A
Open play areas	48	38	62	A	81	A
Jogging and exercise trails	42	35	54	A	54	A
Bicycle trails	41	35	50		54	A
Beach parks	36	26	52	a	62	A
Ball fields	34	32	33		58	A,B
Basketball courts	33	26	35		65	A,B
Swimming pools	32	26	42	A	50	A
Skateboard parks	28	29	27		35	
Volleyball courts	17	10	31	A	38	A
Boat ramps	16	12	23	a	27	a
Tennis courts	14	10	17		19	

 Significant difference from a, b, or c. Lower case is significant at the 90% confidence level. Upper case is significant at the 95% confidence level.

It is also not surprising that residents with children in the household are more likely to support more spending on recreation in Lowell, as they are also more likely to use Lowell's recreational resources.

**Percent Who Feel the Parks Department Should Spend More
On Recreational Activities
By Children in Household**

Base:	Total (261) %	Children in Household (127) %	No Children in Household (106) %
Children's playgrounds	57	66	47
Recreation centers	57	64	49
Nature areas	50	57	42
Jogging and exercise trails	42	47*	35
Beach parks	36	42	28
Ball fields	34	39*	28
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-left: 100px;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Significant at the 95% confidence level </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-left: 100px;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; margin-right: 5px;"></div> * Significant at the 90% confidence level </div>			

Residents are divided in their support for a 1-3% increase in property tax to support parks and open space in Lowell. Slightly more say they would not support such a tax (54% vs. 45%). This is consistent even among the groups that previously stated they would support an increase in spending on recreational activities in the City.

Support an Increase in Property Taxes for Parks and Open Space

Base:	Total (261) %
Yes	45
No	54

Demographics

	<u>Total</u>
Base:	(261)
	%
<u>Years in Lowell</u>	
0-2	13
3-5	14
6-10	10
11 +	45
Entire Life	17
<u>Neighborhood</u>	
Pawtucketville	15
Belvidere and Lower Belvidere	9
Centralville and Christian Hill	12
The Highlands and Middlesex Village	23
The Acre and Lower Highlands	8
Downtown	7
South Lowell, Riverside, Sacred Heart, Swede Village	10
Back Central	1
Don't know/other	15
<u>Neighborhood Area</u>	
Suburban	46
Urban	20
<u>Type of Home</u>	
Single Family	44
Apartment	30
Duplex	10
Townhouse	6
Number of People in HH	3.2
Households with Children	
Children less than 6	21
Children 6 - 17	34
% of HH with Children	49
% of Children Enrolled in Public Schools	58

		<u>Total</u>
Base:		(261)
		%
<u>Race</u>		
Black		3
Hispanic		10
Caucasian		63
Asian		20
Other		2
<u>Age</u>		
18-25		13
26-35		18
36-45		25
46-55		20
56-65		10
Over 65		8
<u>Occupation</u>		
Caucasian Collar		45
Blue Collar		24
Not Employed		9
Other		17
Retired		12
<u>Education</u>		
High School or Less		41
Some College		24
College Grad or More		27
<u>Income</u>		
Less than \$30,000		25
\$30,000-\$49,999		23
\$50,000 or more		32
Median Income		\$49,175

Appendix A: Questionnaire

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Lowell Open Space Initiative Survey

Hello, I'm _____, and am calling for Lowell's Division of Planning and Development. Today, we're doing a survey on parks and open space in Lowell and we'd like to include your views. The results of this survey will help guide the city of Lowell in managing open space and parks in the City.

May I please speak with the male or female head of household?

[If transferred to another adult, repeat introduction. If continuing with the same individual who answered the telephone, continue with below.]

This survey will take about 10 minutes of your time. This is not a sales call and your individual opinions will remain strictly confidential.

IF NOT AVAILABLE OR NOT A GOOD TIME, ASK FOR A CONVENIENT TIME TO CALL BACK.

First _____ (Date/Time)
 Second _____ (Date/Time)
 Third _____ (Date/Time)

1. In what language would you prefer to conduct the interview?

() English
 () Spanish **[CONTINUE INTERVIEW IN SPANISH]**
 () Portuguese **[CONTINUE INTERVIEW IN PORTUGUESE]**
 () Khmer **[PHONECTICALLY WRITTEN IN KHMER: SOMEONE WILL CALL YOU BACK TO CONDUCT THE INTERVIEW; IS THERE A GOOD TIME FOR A CALLBACK _____ (Date/Time)]**

2. Do you live in Lowell?

() No **[THANK RESPONDENT AND TERMINATE INTERVIEW]**
 () Yes **[CONTINUE]**

3. I am going to read you a list of activities that you or members of your family may or may not participate in. For each one, please tell me how often you and your family members participate in that activity – *never, once a year, a few times a year (2 – 5 times), several times a year (6 – 12 times), or many times during the year (more than 12 times).*

Activity	Never	Once a year	A few times a year (2 – 5 times)	Several times a year (6 – 12 times)	Many times a year (more than 12 times)
Fishing	()	()	()	()	()
Bicycling	()	()	()	()	()
Walking or jogging	()	()	()	()	()
Golf	()	()	()	()	()
Tennis	()	()	()	()	()
Baseball or Softball	()	()	()	()	()
Football or Soccer	()	()	()	()	()
Volleyball	()	()	()	()	()
Basketball	()	()	()	()	()
Picnicking	()	()	()	()	()
Attending special events in the Lowell Parks	()	()	()	()	()
Skateboarding	()	()	()	()	()

4. Now I am going to read you a list of public resources that Lowell residents have access to. As I read each one, please tell me how many times a year you use each resource --- *never, once a year, a few times a year (2 – 5 times), several times a year (6 – 12 times), or many times during the year (more than 12 times).*

Public Resource	Never	Once a year	A few times a year (2 – 5 times)	Several times a year (6 – 12 times)	Many times a year (more than 12 times)
Beach	()	()	()	()	()
Boat ramps	()	()	()	()	()
Children's playgrounds	()	()	()	()	()
Swimming Pools	()	()	()	()	()
Tennis courts	()	()	()	()	()
Basketball courts	()	()	()	()	()
Open play area	()	()	()	()	()

5. In thinking about the recreational facilities close to your home, which one of the following facilities do you use most frequently for recreational purposes? **(Please choose only one)**

- ☐ Public park
- ☐ Public school
- ☐ Private yard
- ☐ Health or fitness club
- ☐ Country or social club
- ☐ Golf course
- ☐ Other _____ (Please Specify)
- ☐ I don't use any recreational facilities that are close to my home

6. Following are several statements about the city of Lowell. Please tell me how important you think each statement is to you when considering improving the quality of life in your neighborhood. Please use a scale of one to ten, where a '10' means **Very Important to improve the quality of life** and a '1' means **Not at all Important to improve the quality of life**.

	Not at all Important 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Very Important 10
Protecting the open space in your neighborhood from development	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()
Making neighborhoods more attractive places by encouraging building maintenance and upkeep on private property	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()
Making neighborhoods more attractive places by keeping streets and sidewalks clean	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()
Making neighborhoods more attractive places by creating more natural areas such as parks, and gardens.	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()
Making neighborhoods more attractive places by planting more trees and flowers on city property	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()
Preserving environmentally sensitive areas	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()
Providing play areas for our youth	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()
Offering recreational facilities for adults	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()

The Parks Department tries to provide quality recreation services to all residents. Therefore, it sometimes has to make difficult decisions on how to develop and operate the City Parks. We would like to know what choices you think the Department should make on some issues. **[Read first pair and then ask – Which do you think Lowell should focus on?]**

7.
 - () Developing several smaller parks in neighborhoods that would be used primarily by residents in those neighborhoods
 - OR
 - () Developing a few larger parks that would be used by all City residents
8.
 - () Fixing up existing parks and recreational areas
 - OR
 - () Purchasing land in developing areas to create **new** parks and recreational areas
 - OR
 - () Developing vacant, undeveloped city-owned land into **new** parks and recreational areas
9.
 - () Spending more money on supervised recreation activities within existing park areas
 - OR
 - () Spending more money on developing **new** park and recreational areas
10.
 - () Maintaining city control of developing and maintaining all parks and recreational areas
 - OR
 - () Allowing citizen groups to develop and maintain parks and recreational areas
11. In maintaining recreational areas, the Parks Department must spend limited city funds generated from tax collection. Following is a list of recreational areas that the Parks Department maintains. For each area that I read, please tell me if you think the Parks Department should be **spending more of your its budget, spending less of its budget,** or **spending about the same** to maintain each area.

	Spend Less	Spend the Same	<u>Spend More</u>
Children's Playgrounds	()	()	()
Tennis courts	()	()	()
Swimming pools	()	()	()
Recreation centers	()	()	()
Ball fields	()	()	()
Bicycle trails	()	()	()
Beach parks	()	()	()
Boat ramps	()	()	()
Jogging and exercise trails	()	()	()
Basketball courts	()	()	()
Nature areas	()	()	()
Open play areas	()	()	()
Volley ball courts	()	()	()
Skateboard parks	()	()	()

12. The Community Preservation Act provides a potential funding source for parks and open space through a property tax surcharge that is matched by state funding. Would you support an increase in property taxes of 1-3% for this purpose?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

The following questions are for classification purposes only.

13. In what year did you move to Lowell?

[TEXT BOX] OR ☐ I've lived here all my life

14. Which Lowell neighborhood do you live in? **[DO NOT READ LIST, SELECT ONE. If respondent does not know which neighborhood, get their street address or the names of the 2 streets that intersect closest to their home.]**

<i>Neighborhood</i>	
The Acre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Back Central	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belvidere	<input type="checkbox"/>
Centralville	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>
Downtown	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Highlands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower Belvidere	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower Highlands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middlesex Village	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pawtucketville	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riverside	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sacred Heart	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Lowell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swede Village	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify) [TEXT BOX]	
OR: Street address [TEXT BOX]	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. What type of home do you live in? **[READ LIST]**

- ☐ Single Family Home
☐ Apartment
☐ Duplex
☐ Townhouse
☐ Other

16. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

[TEXT BOX]

17. How many people in your household are....

	# of people	
Less than 6 years old	_____	(If no children under 18 years old, go to Q19)
6-17 years old	_____	
18-44 years old	_____	
45-64 years old	_____	
65 or more years old	_____	

18. If there are children in your household, are any of those children enrolled in Lowell public schools?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

19. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnic background? **[READ LIST]**

- ☐ Black, African American
☐ Brazilian
☐ Portuguese
☐ Hispanic, Latino
☐ Cambodian
☐ Caucasian or Caucasian
☐ Laotian
☐ Other Asian
☐ Other (Please Specify) [Text Box]

20. What is your age? _____

21. What is the occupation of the chief wage earner or head of your household?

- ☐ Retired (**Please check both Retired & previous occupation**)
☐ Professional/technical
☐ Managerial/proprietor
☐ Clerical/sales
☐ Skilled craftsperson
☐ Factory worker
☐ Service worker
☐ Self-employed
☐ Unemployed
☐ Student
☐ Homemaker
☐ Other _____ (**Please specify**)

22. What is the last year of formal schooling you personally completed? **[READ LIST]**

- ☐ Some High School or Less
- ☐ High School Graduate
- ☐ Vocational/Technical School (2 year)
- ☐ Some College
- ☐ College Graduate (4 year)
- ☐ Some Post Graduate work
- ☐ Post Graduate Degree

23. Please stop me when I read the category that includes your total annual household income for 2001. **[READ LIST]**

- ☐ Less than \$20,000
- ☐ \$20,000 to \$29,999
- ☐ \$30,000 - \$39,999
- ☐ \$40,000 - \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 - \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 - \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 or more

24. Gender **[INTERVIEWER RECORD]**

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

Thank you for your time. Your opinions are greatly appreciated.

Appendix B: Detailed Tables